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China displays its wares at maritime show

By Chia Yan Min

CHINA is on course to becoming a major global player in the shipbuilding industry, so its headlining presence at a major industry trade show being held in Singapore seems appropriate.

Asia Pacific Maritime 2008 - a key regional event that focuses on everything from shipbuilding to port technology - has made China its feature country this year.

China, in turn, has taken the opportunity to display its wares, with 100 key maritime players showcasing equipment, technology, ports and services at its pavilion.

China's shipbuilding output accounted for about 20 per cent of the global total last year. Orders held by its shipbuilders account for 33 per cent of the world's market. Its shipbuilding industry is the third-largest in the world, after those of South Korea and Japan.

The rise of China as a maritime power underscores the region's growing importance in shipbuilding, noted the Minister of State for Finance and Transport, Mrs Lim Hwee Hua.

She noted at the event's opening ceremony yesterday: 'Not only is Asia now a major owner of shipping tonnage, Asia also has a two-



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thirds share of the global shipbuilding market.'

While China is grabbing a large share of the spotlight at the event, which ends tomorrow, many other maritime operators have dropped anchor at the Singapore Expo site as well.

Held every two years, the event has drawn more than 841 exhibiting companies from 52 countries this year. Of these, 630 are from overseas, 34 per cent more than in 2006.

As well as exhibits showcasing maritime products and services, there are seminars and conferences covering various maritime issues.

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